

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner's indication of the allowability of the subject matter of claim 2 is respectfully acknowledged.

New claim 7 has been prepared to recite the subject matter of allowable claim 2 in independent form, including all of the limitations of its parent claim 1, in better compliance with the requirements of 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

In addition, new claim 8 has been added to more specifically recite the features of the embodiment of the present invention shown in Fig. 8A, depending from claim 7.

Still further, new claims 9-12 have been added to recite the subject matter of claims 3-6 depending from claim 7.

In preparing new claims 7 and 9-12 various revisions have been made to the recitations in the original claims to make minor grammatical improvements and/or to correct minor antecedent basis problems in the original claims. No new matter has been added, and no new issues with respect to patentability have been raised.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that new independent claim 7 and claims 8-12 depending therefrom are in condition for immediate allowance.

THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-6 have been amended to more clearly recite the distinguishing features of the present invention in better compliance with the requirements of 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

In particular, claim 1 has been amended to recite "at least one permanent magnet" and "at least one soft magnetic material piece" as well as to more positively recite the structural relationship of the at least one permanent magnet and the at least one soft magnetic material piece whereby the at least one soft magnetic material piece is disposed between the at least one permanent magnet and the magnetic core.

In addition, claim 1 has been amended to recite the feature of the present invention whereby the at least one permanent magnet has a natural coercive force of at least 10 kOe (79kA/m) and a T_c of at least 500°C (as supported by the disclosure in the specification at page 6, lines 26-28), and to recite the feature of the present invention whereby the magnetic core is selected from the group consisting of silicone steel, amorphous material, Ni-Fe allow, MnZn ferrite and NiZn ferrite (as supported by the disclosure in the specification at page 8, lines 3-6).

Still further, claim 2 has been amended to more clearly and positively recite the features of the embodiment of the present invention shown in Fig. 6A, and various minor amendments have been made to claims 3-6 to put same in better U.S. form.

No new matter has been added to the claims, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1 and 3-6 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the admitted "Prior art 1", taken singly or in combination with USP 6,304,460 ("Cuk"). This rejection, however, is respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as amended hereinabove.

The admitted Prior art 1 corresponds to Japanese Unexamined Utility Model Publication No. 54-152957 mentioned on page 2 of the specification of the present application. As recognized by the Examiner, this publication discloses using a soft magnetic material. It is respectfully submitted, however, that this publication does not disclose, teach or suggest that the soft magnetic material has a smaller permeability and less eddy current loss than the magnetic core, and it is also respectfully submitted that this publication does not disclose, teach or suggest that the permanent magnet has a coercive force of at least 10 kOe (79 kA/m) and a T_c of at least 500°C. And it is respectfully submitted that these features of the present invention as recited in amended claim 1 result in an inductor component with few restrictions with regard to the form of the

positioned permanent magnet. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that in the inductor component according to the present invention as recited in claim 1, generation of heat of the permanent magnet due to magnetic flux from the coil wound on the magnetic core is suppressed, and the properties of the inductor component do not deteriorate.

Still further, it is noted that the Cuk patent has merely been cited for the disclosure of a pair of C-shape cores.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that neither the admitted Prior art 1 nor Cuk discloses, teaches or suggests the features of the present invention as recited in amended claim 1 whereby the soft magnetic material has a smaller permeability and less eddy current loss than the core and whereby the permanent magnet has a coercive force of at least 10 kOe (79 kA/m) and a T_c of at least 500°C, or the above described advantageous effects achieved by these claimed features.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited amended claim 1 and each of claims 2-6 patentably distinguishes over the admitted Prior art 1, taken singly or in combination with Cuk, under 35 USC 103.

RE: PRIORITY CLAIM

The certified priority document was filed in the U.S. Patent Office on February 21, 2003 to perfect the priority claim under

35 USC 119. Attached is a photocopy of the return receipt evidencing receipt thereof by the Patent Office.


It is respectfully requested that the Examiner acknowledge receipt of the certified priority document to perfect the priority claim under 35 USC 119.

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In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,


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